infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objetive is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. Employment Assurance Scheme has also been strengthened from 1.4.1999 as single wage employment programme. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families.

From 1.12.1997, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is the main poverty alleviation programme in the urban areas. The SJSRY, which has subsumed all the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes, viz., Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic services for the Poor (UBSP), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP), seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or underemployed urban and educated up to IX standard for setting up self employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The implementation of SJSRY is relying on suitable community structures on the UBSP pattern and delivery of inputs under this programme is through the medium of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and such community structure.

Employment Contribution of small and Cottage Industries

†882. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the employment contribution of Small and Cottage Industries in the total employment available in industry;

(b) whether Government are considering to promote small and cottage industries to increase the employment opportunities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Small Scale and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

cottage sector contributes more than 50% of Industrial employment in the country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Promotion of small and cottage industries for increasing the employment opportunities is one of the accepted policies of the Government. An outlay of Rs. 4,304 crore has been provided in the ninth Five Year Plan to the Ministry of SSI & ARI for development and promotion of small & cottage industries. At the Centra! level, Small Industries Development Organisaiton has been running a large number of schemes for promotion of SSI sector; these includes technology upgradation, market development, infrastructural development, entrepreneurship development and dissemination of inormation. Credit to SSI sector is provided through Small Industries Developmnt Bank of India, State Financial Corporations, commercial banks etc. Similarly, the Khadi & Village Industries Commission works for the promotion of Khadi & Village Industries with a package of assistance covering finance, training, marketing, R&D etc.

A special scheme of employment generation called, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for educated unemployed youth was launched in Oct., 1993.

(b) Does not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.

Separate Policy for Expansion of Small Scale industry

†883. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased lo state:

(a) whether Government are considering to implement a separate policy for the expansion and development of small scale mini industries of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far taken any action to hand over the responsibility of formulating policy for this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.